



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

January 9, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *JTM*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – TLC HOME FOR
GIRLS, INCORPORATED, TLC LYNWOOD AND TLC COMPTON
GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of TLC Lynwood and TLC Compton Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by TLC Home for Girls Group Homes, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

TLC Lynwood Group Home is an eight-bed facility, and TLC Compton Group Home is a six-bed facility. Each Group Home provides care for girls ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, TLC Lynwood Group Home was providing services for eight DCFS children, and TLC Compton Group Home was providing services for six DCFS children.

TLC Home for Girls Group Homes are located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection,

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. TLC Lynwood Group Home needs to enroll children in school in a timely manner.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:jdh

http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Margie Staten, Executive Director, TLC Home for Girls
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**TLC Home for Girls, Incorporated
Lynwood Group Home
3381 Virginia Avenue
Lynwood, California 90262
Phone: (310) 763-3925
License Number: 197801921
Rate Classification Level: 10**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

TLC Lynwood Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. The window screens and window coverings are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The Needs and Services Plans are current, comprehensive and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. However, one child was not enrolled in school for at least two months after the date of placement. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

1. TLC Home for Girls management enroll children in school within three days of placement.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents****Comments:**

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights**Method of assessment –Interviews with children**

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and

receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

**TLC Home for Girls, Incorporated
Compton Group Home
1311 Van Ness Avenue
Compton, California 90221
Phone: (310) 639-6262
License Number: 191601229
Rate Classification Level: 10**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

TLC Compton Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The Needs and Services Plans are current, comprehensive, and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medication. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

TLC Home for Girls
3381 Virginia St. 1311 N. Van Ness
Lynwood, Ca 90262 Compton, Ca 90221
310-763-3925 310-639-6262

Date: September 15, 2006

County of Los Angeles
Department of Auditor-Controller
Children's Group Home OMBUDSMAN
500 West Temple Street, Room 515-A
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2766
213-272-9355
Fax: 213-346-9020

Attention: Jacquelyn Hayes, Children Services Administrator

Re: Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for Audit dated May 4, 2006

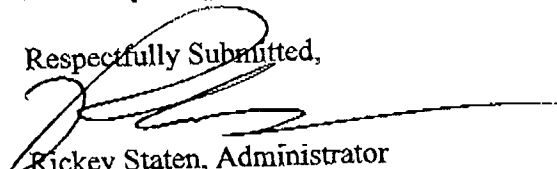
Dear Ms. Hayes,

We apologize that our first CAP did not reach the office for unknown reason, but we would greatly appreciate if you could consider accepting this CAP as a replacement. As noted in our first CAP, I would first like to thank you for your professionalism, your input and your kind and wonderful attitude throughout the Group Home Audit and Evaluation.

We are pleased to know that during our Audit that most things was in place, however you brought to our attention that it has taken much to long to enter a kid into school. TLC has address this issue with staff and the school district and we have developed a form (see Attached) that will show that TLC is actively trying to place kids in school within 3 days of placement. This will be followed up by the Group Home Administrator and the Group Supervisor.

Thank you and if you or your agency needs any further information feel free to contact me on my cell phone @ 310-292-2847.

Respectfully Submitted,


Rickey Staten, Administrator
TLC Home for Girls

Cc: Margie Staten, Director
Patricia Scott Patterson, President-Board of Directors

TLC HOME FOR GIRLS, INC.
(310) 763-3925

CLIENT	
DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF PLACEMENT

TLC HOME FOR GIRLS, INC. is a group home licensed by the California Department of Social Services and contracted with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services.

That contract requires TLC HOME FOR GIRLS, INC. to enroll the above child in the local school district within three (3) school days of the date of placement. All efforts to enroll the above child must be documented. The documentation must be provided to the County Worker if the child is not placed within three (3) school days.

Since this is the third (3rd) day since this child was placed in our group home, your signature below followed by the reason for non-enrollment will provide the required documentation for TLC HOME FOR GIRLS, INC. to show that the facility has complied by attempting to enroll our resident in school.

Thank you for your cooperation.

PRINCIPAL	DATE
REASON CHILD WAS NOT ENROLLED	